

ESF #9 - URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

Participating Departments/Agencies:

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
City of Lincoln Fire Department
Game and Parks Commission
Department of Roads
Military Department
State Fire Marshal
State Patrol

I. PURPOSE

- A. To plan and coordinate the use of Federal Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) assets following an event requiring locating, extricating and providing for the immediate medical treatment of victims trapped in collapsed structures.
- B. To coordinate and assist State and local agencies with their US&R responsibilities.
- C. To identify the Lincoln Fire Department as a city asset as well as a Federal Urban Search and Rescue Team. Any request for the full US&R team would be made through the federal government.

II. SITUATION

- A. A major emergency or disaster may cause conditions that place persons in life-threatening situations requiring prompt rescue and medical care. Rescue personnel can encounter extensive damage to structures, which require search and rescue expertise not readily available at the local level. All other forms of search and rescue--i.e. water, wilderness, etc., --are covered under other existing authorities and will not be managed by this ESF.
- B. Assumptions
 - 1. All available State and local search and rescue organizations will be committed immediately, and will be unable to respond to all requirements.
 - 2. Numbers of local residents and workers or convergent volunteers will initiate activities to help US&R operations and will require coordination and direction.
 - 3. Access to damaged areas will be restricted.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. A NEMA Response Section staff member serves as the ESF Coordinator for ESF #9. In the event of a potential or real disaster event, the ESF #9 Coordinator (ESFC) from NEMA will be notified by the SEOC. Upon SEOC request, the ESFC will be available to respond to requests for emergency/disaster related information. When the SEOC is activated, the ESFC will activate ESF #9, identify which participating departments/agencies are needed, and take steps to insure that participating departments/agencies are activated or on alert as appropriate.
- B. ESF #9 will maintain a listing of all state assets available to support an urban search and rescues mission. Volunteer and local agencies may be requested to contribute assets to the response effort. Industrial resources may also be considered for availability and effectiveness. Furthermore, availability, operations condition and duration of need must be considered. The logistical requirements necessary to obtain critically needed equipment will also be evaluated.
- C. ESF #9, with the Emergency Management Agency as the Primary agency, will:
 - 1. Respond to requests for local urban search and rescue assistance.
 - 2. Accumulate damage information obtained from assessment teams, the local emergency operations center and other local and state agencies.
 - 3. Develop a response plan, which includes the logistical requirements necessary to obtain critically needed equipment.
 - 4. Prioritize and develop strategies for a coordinated response;
 - 5. Pre-position resources when it becomes apparent that urban search and rescue equipment will be required;
 - 6. Coordinate movement of any search and rescue resource that may be needed in response, from the potential disaster area to the nearest staging area.
 - 7. Assess the need for, and obtain private industry support as required.
 - 8. Prepare and process reports using established procedures, focusing specific attention to the production of after-action reports.
 - 9. Re-deploy and re-stage resources as appropriate.

IV. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ESF #9 will utilize personnel and resources from participating departments/agencies to respond to mission assignments related to emergencies/disasters. Additional resources available from other ESFs may be coordinated and mobilized to support ESF #9 missions. When requests exceed the state's capability to respond, additional resources (i.e. federal resources, contractual agreements, and mutual aid agreements) will be mobilized. All personnel and resources mobilized by ESF #9 will remain under the direction and control of the ESFC #9, unless otherwise designated.

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